

CLAIM:

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1. A protective cover for a motor vehicle articulating joint, the cover having a deformable structure defining an interior space closed at both ends and including vent means coupled to the interior space, the vent means including a vent element adapted to allow fluid flow thereacross whilst stopping contaminants and/ or water entering into the interior space whereby excess fluid pressure within the interior can be reduced by fluid evacuation and aspiration through the vent means.
2. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluid is air.
3. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformable structure is a flexible bellows.
4. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deformable structure is secured at each end with a respective collar element.
5. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluid pressure within the interior is maintained at a desired fluid pressure.
6. A cover as claimed in claim 4, wherein the desired fluid pressure is that of the ambient atmospheric air pressure adjacent the protective cover.
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7. A protective cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is located at one end of the deformable structure.
8. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element comprises a porosity-calibrated material structure.
9. A cover as claimed in claim 8, wherein the material structure is a Teflon.
10. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is replaceable in the vent means.
11. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent element is adapted to expel at least some of any contaminants and/or water associated with it upon outward fluid movements through the vent element as the deformable structure and therefore the interior space is deformed.
12. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is configured as a spout comprising a first portion outwardly perpendicular to the major axis of the cover and a second portion parallel to that major axis of the cover whereby the vent means has a substantially "L" shaped configuration.
13. A cover as claimed in claim 1, made from an elastomeric material.

14. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is arranged to allow fluid air flow thereacross.
15. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is adapted to prevent lubricant escaping from the interior space.
16. A cover as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent means is formed separately from the cover and is subsequently connected to the cover.
17. A cover according to claim 16 wherein the material of the cover enters the vent means to connect the vent means to the cover.
18. A cover according to claim 16 wherein the vent means are connected to the cover by a mechanical bond.
19. A protective cover arrangement, comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1 respectively secured about the ends of a steering arrangement within a motor vehicle in order to protect that steering arrangement.
20. A protective cover arrangement comprising protective covers as claimed in claim 1, secured about a motor vehicle transmission joint to protect that transmission joint.

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